



# Azure Gallinule, *Porphyrio flavirostris* (Aves: Rallidae): first record for the state of Santa Catarina, Southern Brazil

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**Abstract:** This note reports on the first record of Azure Gallinule *Porphyrio flavirostris* for the state of Santa Catarina in Southern Brazil.

**Key words:** Doutor Pedrinho, frango-d'água-pequeno, geographical distribution, rail

Two species of *Porphyrio* occur in Brazil: *P. martinicus* Linnaeus, 1766 (Purple Gallinule) and *P. flavirostris* Gmelin, 1789 (Azure Gallinule) (CBRO 2014). *Porphyrio martinicus* is widespread in marshes and swamps (Sick 1997), whereas *P. flavirostris* is found locally in freshwater marshes, including marshy edges of rivers and lakes, rice paddies, lagoons, ponds, and overgrown swamps (Taylor 1996; Taylor and Van Perlo 1998). Both *P. martinicus* and *P. flavirostris* may co-occur, but the latter prefers shorter, smaller-leaved vegetation, avoiding areas with bushes and heliconias. According Taylor (1996), *P. flavirostris* differs in appearance from its congeners by a washed-out plumage, lower back to tail dark brown, upperwing-coverts azure or greenish blue, remiges grey-blue, sides of head, neck and breast blue-grey, throat and underparts pure white, and bill and frontal shield pale greenish yellow.

Relatively few data exists on the geographical distribution of *P. flavirostris* in Brazil. The species has been reported from the states of Roraima, Amapá, Amazonas, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Goiás, Minas Gerais, Bahia, São Paulo, Paraná, and Rio Grande do Sul (Pinto 1964; Remsen and Parker 1990; Sick 1997; Bencke 2001; Mikick and Bérnils 2004; Freitas 2006; Bencke et al. 2010; Dias et al. 2010). Although it is present year-round in the Amazon basin, there is evidence suggesting that *P. flavirostris* undertakes seasonal movements around its dispersal range (Remsen and Parker 1990).

In Southern Brazil, *P. flavirostris* is listed as 'Data Deficient' species in Paraná and considered as a vagrant

to Rio Grande do Sul (Rosário 1996; Naka and Rodrigues 2000; Naka et al. 2000; Bencke 2001; Mikick and Bérnils 2004). As far as I know, there were no published records of *P. flavirostris* from Santa Catarina (Amorim and Piacentini 2006; Azevedo and Ghizoni-Jr. 2006; Ghizoni-Jr. and Silva 2006; Accordi and Barcellos 2008; Kohler et al. 2009; Ghizoni-Jr. and Azevedo 2010; Ghizoni-Jr. et al. 2013). On the evening of 4 February 2014, I sighted one individual (Figure 1) on the edge of a large rice paddy in Salto Donner, municipality of Doutor Pedrinho (26°45'23" S, 049°27'57" W, 517 m above sea level). The lack of records of *P. flavirostris* in this state is



**Figure 1.** Azure Gallinule *Porphyrio flavirostris*, Doutor Pedrinho, state of Santa Catarina, Southern Brazil (Meyer 2014).



probably due to its poorly known vocalizations, as well as secretive habits (Taylor 1996; Taylor and Van Perlo 1998).

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